

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 have been amended to remove means plus function terms and other similar language to avoid any unintentional limitations of the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Ida (EP 1 022 894) in view of Merritt (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,429). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites “a first receiver to receive recipient's designation of the contents of the conversion processes; a second receiver to receive the recipient's designation of the contents of the conversion processes via a transmission medium different from that used by the first receiver; a switcher to switch between the first and second receivers depending on the recipient.” The Examiner has conceded that Ida does not disclose such features, asserting instead that these features are disclosed in Merritt. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner has cited Merritt's disclosure of two classes of users, registered users and unregistered users, as disclosing the above features. However, the Examiner has failed to consider that the receivers recited in claim 1 receive the designation over different transmission mediums, and has not asserted that Merritt makes such a disclosure. Merritt does not disclose or suggest that the transmission medium over which a designation is received should vary depending on the recipient. In Merritt, both the registered and unregistered users provide a designation using email, as shown in Figure 6.

Accordingly, the combination of Ida and Merritt does not disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1, which is therefore allowable. Claims 7 and 8 recite features similar to those discussed above and are therefore also allowable over the cited art. Claims 2, 5, 9 and 13 depend from allowable claims and are therefore allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Ida and Merritt in further view of Gilmour (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,384). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Gilmour does not overcome the deficiencies detailed above with regard to Ida and Merritt nor has the Examiner asserted that Gilmour provides such a disclosure. Accordingly, claims 3 and 10, which depend from allowable claims, are therefore allowable due at least to their respective dependencies and for this additional reason.

Claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Ida and Merritt and Gilmour in further view of Official Notice. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner's Official Notice, which applicant reserves the right to traverse, does not overcome the deficiencies detailed above with regard to Ida and Merritt nor has the Examiner so asserted. Accordingly, claims 4 and 11, which depend from allowable claims, are therefore allowable due at least to their respective dependencies and for this additional reason.

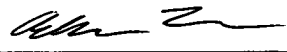
Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Ida and Merritt in further view of Picoult (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,601). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Picoult does not overcome the deficiencies detailed above with regard to Ida and Merritt nor has the Examiner asserted that Picoult provides such a disclosure. Accordingly, claims 6 and 12, which depend from allowable claims, are therefore allowable due at least to their respective dependencies and for this additional reason.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 325772028200.

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